

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are amended.

In the Office Action dated October 23, 2002, claims 1-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Parulski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,493,335) (hereinafter "Parulski"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Parulski does not disclose that when the continuous shooting unit executes continuous shooting, the image compression unit performs image compression at the high compression factor if the resolution at the resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution. In fact, Parulski does not disclose a compression factor in any form. The Office Action concedes this deficiency, arguing instead that a compression factor according to the claimed combination is inherent in Parulski.

Claims 1 and 7, from which claims 2 and 8 depend, recite that "said image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at the low compression factor when the resolution at said resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution. . . ." Parulski does not disclose, teach or suggest performing image compression at low resolution with a low compression factor under any circumstances.

Similarly, claim 3, from which claims 4 and 6 depend, recites that "said resolution conversion unit is capable of performing resolution conversion at the high resolution when the compression factor at said image compression unit is set to the high compression factor. . . ." Parulski does not disclose, teach or suggest performing image compression at high resolution with a high compression factor under any circumstances.

The Examiner asserts that Parulski discloses an inherent image compression unit that performs image compression on image data converted by said resolution conversion unit in correspondence to a compression factor set, which is inherently associated with the resolution set, at said setting unit. However, according to independent claims 1, 3 and 7, there is an

image compression unit that performs image compression at the low compression factor even if the resolution at the resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution or performs image compression at the high compression factor even if the resolution at the resolution conversion unit is set to the high resolution, respectively. Support is shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 in the application. Consequently, it is not true that the image compression unit of Parulski performs image compression on image data converted by the resolution conversion unit in correspondence to a compression factor set which is inherently associated with the resolution set. Instead, Parulski only discloses that when a "low resolution" mode is selected by the user, the image is compressed (col. 5, lns. 52-61).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3 and 7 are patentable over Parulski. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are patentable at least in view of their dependency from claims 1, 3 and 7, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Parulski be withdrawn.

In the Office Action dated October 23, 2002, claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski in view of Mizoguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,407,772). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 recites that "said image compression unit is capable of performing image compression at the low compression factor when the resolution at said resolution conversion unit is set to the low resolution. . . ." Neither Parulski nor Mizoguchi teach or suggest performing image compression at low resolution with a low compression factor under any circumstances.

Further regarding claim 5, the Examiner correctly concedes that Parulski fails to teach or suggest a setting unit capable of setting a continuous speed according to the claimed combination. In order to overcome this deficiency in Parulski, the Examiner relies on

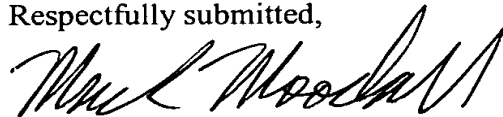
Mizoguchi. Mizoguchi may disclose that a continuous photographing speed can be assigned at an arbitrary speed equal to or lower than 60 frames/second (col. 3, lines 6-10). However, Mizoguchi does not disclose, teach or suggest a relationship between the continuous photographing speed and the compression factor.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is requested that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Parulski and Mizoguchi be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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